

CPT 'has linked up with Burma groups'

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THE Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) has joined the Burmese Communist Party (BCP) and minority groups inside Burma operating on the western border of Thailand, according to a former CPT member who recently defected to the authorities in the Northeast.

A military source in the region said the information was obtained from

the interrogation of Mrs Taeng-on Chandavong, a long-time CPT member and wife of Khrong Chandavong, who was executed by a firing squad in Sakon Nakhon's Sawang Daen Din District, on the order of late prime minister Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat on communism charges.

Mrs Taeng-on fled into the jungle in 1966 following the execution of her

husband and spent most of her life in China.

She surrendered with four other former insurgents to the Sakon Nakhon governor on May 21 this year after returning to Thailand from Kunming in China via Hong Kong on the advice of her eldest son, Vithit Chandavong, who surrendered many years ago.

Mrs Taeng-on, 70, revealed that Pluang Wannasri, his wife, Niphon Angkhathavorn and Mrs Nit Phongdabphet, members of the CPT Central Committee, are still living in China, the source said.

She said the CPT still exists and is still receiving support from China.

With China's support, the CPT has joined the BCP and minority groups on the northeastern border of China and they are now operating near the western border of Thailand.

Mrs Taeng-on, after interrogation, was sent to a karunyathep centre for a re-education programme and has been allowed to stay at her house in Ban Khok Sawang Nua in Sakon Nakhon's Sawang Daen Din District because she is very old and sick.

She married Mr Khrong in 1937. They have two sons and one daughter.

Their youngest son Thamrong, alias Comrade Pichai, is still operating as a CPT member on the northern border. Their daughter, Kruankrong, married Phet Samphanthai and both are still in the jungle.